

In the Claims:

1. (canceled).

2. (canceled).

3. (canceled).

4. (canceled).

5. (canceled).

6. (currently amended) A relay comprising: a base that defines a base plane; a magnet system arranged on the base including a coil, a core and an armature; at least one pair of closing spring contacts and at least one pair of opening spring contacts, each pair of spring contacts including a passive and an active spring contact, and each spring contact being secured in the base, standing ~~perpendicular to the base plane~~ perpendicular to the base plane, and having at an end remote from the base a contact portion; and an actuating slide movable parallel to the base plane to act on each active spring contact, ~~in the vicinity of the contact portion~~
characterised in that
the slide ~~acts on the active spring contact of the pair of opening spring contacts at a different~~ acts on the active spring contact of the pair of opening spring contacts at a different ~~spacing from the spacing at the base~~
and from that at which it acts on the corresponding closing spring contacts.

7. (currently amended) The relay according to Claim 6, wherein the slide acts on the active opening spring contacts ~~in each case at a larger spacing as regards the point at which it is secured~~

